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SECRET

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REPORT

SUBJECT Role of the Central Committee of the CPSU

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REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
 THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
 (FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. In source's opinion, the role of the Central Committee of the CPSU in the administration of the USSR remains the same today as it was before the death of Stalin, and there is no reason for it to have changed. Although the CC/CPSU probably has not assumed any greater responsibility, its responsibility has not diminished. The entire system of Party control would fall to pieces if the control of the Central Committee were removed. The new, smaller number of ministries by no means reflects an increased strength of the Central Committee, but rather only the chaos which normally typifies the management of the Soviet state. Ministers and deputy ministers have long complained about the interference of the Party in State planning matters, especially in the economic field. However, nothing has been done to alleviate this situation. As source expressed it, there are few ministries this year; perhaps next year there will be three times as many.

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2. Although it is difficult to judge whether the roles of individual members of the Central Committee have changed in any way, source believes that the current announced policy of collective leadership is so much "eyewash". It is a temporary expedient, or a stalling device, to enable some current unknown in the Party leadership to acquire sufficient good publicity so that he will soon have accumulated a worthwhile reputation and national acclaim for his accomplishments, real or fancied.

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3. It is impossible for any specialized group (ie., economists) in the Central Committee to differ with the Committee as a whole on major points of policy, as heresy cannot be tolerated in a Communist state. It is possible, of course, for one person or several persons to conceive an idea which is unacceptable because of Marxist doctrine, but he or they are soon exposed and eliminated. Voznesenskiy is a good example of this; he mutinied and was punished accordingly. The watchfulness of the Central Committee, extending down into the lowest levels of industry, inhibits deviationism.

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